



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick
EEA Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett
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Patrick Administration Awards More \$1.1 Million in Grants for 39 Recreational Trails Projects

Funds will improve hiking, biking and recreational vehicle trails

NORTHAMPTON—Friday, October 17, 2014 – The Patrick Administration today announced \$1.1 million in grants to fund 39 trails projects across the Commonwealth under DCR's Recreational Trails Grants Program, continuing Governor Patrick's commitment to preserving open space throughout the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Murray made the announcement in Northampton, where a \$4,937.40 grant will assist the Cutchins Programs for Children and Families in expanding the Meadows City Trail in the city-owned Meadows floodplain area, adding an additional 2.5 miles of trail.

"Massachusetts is fortunate to have an abundance of recreational trails and the Patrick Administration is committed to maintaining, preserving and improving them for our residents and visitors," said Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants are awarded for the construction and stewardship of hiking trails, bikeways, snowmobile trails and an array of other trails throughout the Commonwealth. This can include improvements to long-distance trails and rail trail development, ATV trail maintenance and creation or maintenance of municipal trails. Each recipient matches their grant with a minimum additional 20 percent in funding or in-kind services.

"The development of recreational trails is central to our core mission," said Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray. "These projects help connect cities and towns across the Commonwealth and will ensure that Massachusetts continues to be a prime destination for outdoor enthusiasts."

Grant awards range from \$2,156 to \$95,000, depending on the scope of the project. Since taking office in 2007, the Patrick Administration has awarded more than \$6.9 million in funds for more than 250 recreational trail projects in communities across the Commonwealth. These projects were made possible through partnerships with the Federal Highway Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board. This money has been matched by over \$5.3 million in local contributions of cash, in-kind labor and donations.

RTP is funded through the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represents a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use. The funds are distributed to individual states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are 80-20 challenge grants with the local match typically consisting of in-kind labor and professional services, material donations, use of equipment or a cash match. RTP allocates 30 percent of its funds to motorized use, 30 percent to non-motorized use, and 40 percent to diverse use projects. Funding is available to registered non-profits and municipal, state and federal agencies.

This year's awardees are:

AMHERST

The Trust for Public Land

Grant Award \$45,749

Match \$16,562

This project will develop two backcountry campsites on DCR land on the Connecticut River, to extend the Connecticut River Paddler's Trail from Vermont and New Hampshire into Massachusetts.

ANDOVER

Andover Trails Committee, Inc.

Grant Award \$22,722

Match \$5,680.40

This project will replace a section of the Bay Circuit Trail currently located on-road by extending the Doyle Link Reservation trail system by 1000 feet.

BERNARDSTON

Bernardston-Gill-Leyden Snowmobile Club

Grant Award \$17,307.00

Match \$5,777.59

This project involves the purchase of a low impact tracked grooming and maintenance vehicle which will be used to maintain the club's trail system year-round.

BUCKLAND

Franklin Land Trust

Grant Award \$50,000.00

Match \$39,242.60

This project will create a hiking trail along the discontinued, washed-out Maynard Hill Road Right of Way in Buckland.

CHESHIRE

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Grant Award \$11,270.00

Match \$13,430.40

This project will fund a seasonal Appalachian Trail Ridge Runner who will work exclusively on the National Scenic Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts, provide education and information to trail visitors, work closely with the numerous volunteers that help maintain the trail and its associated overnight facilities, help to monitor trail conditions, record trail use and respond to emergencies as needed.

COLRAIN

Colrain Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club

Grant Award \$16,872.00

Match \$11,011.46

This project will update the fleet of snowmobile trail grooming equipment currently used by the Colrain Sno-Drifters by purchasing a new machine to improve efficiency, gas mileage and to decrease carbon footprint.

CONWAY**Henhawk Trail Restoration**

Grant Award \$36,550.00

Match \$19,245.00

This project includes improvements to the historical Henhawk Trail located in Conway State Forest and the surrounding area. The repairs will allow snowmobiles, groomers and other recreational use to access a trail that has been in disrepair due to erosion and lack of regular maintenance.

CONWAY**Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts**

Grant Award \$65,000.00

Match \$45,000.00

This project will aid in the purchase of a 43-acre parcel of land for sale in Leicester, for the purpose of preserving a section of the ITS71 Snowmobile Trail, in conjunction with other conservation and preservation goals.

DALTON**Appalachian Mountain Club**

Grant Award \$28,170.00

Match \$64,929.28

This project will rehabilitate a section of the Appalachian Trail on Day Mountain in Dalton. Permanent drainage structures and tread hardening will improve an excessively wet and eroded section of trail located on the side of the mountain, improving and providing for a safer trail experience for all users.

GROTON**Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA)**

Grant Award \$3,897.00

Match \$9,235.85

This project will enhance the user experience along the Nashua River Water Trail by providing on-river signage and supplemental on-line information to support NRWA's new "Canoe and Kayak Guide."

HAYDENVILLE**Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club**

Grant Award \$29,140.00

Match \$8,021.15

This project will rehabilitate two bridges along the Old Williamsburg Road Trail and one bridge along the Water Works Road Trail. The project will also maintain these trails and bridges during the winter months through the purchase and operation of a snowmobile grooming set.

HOLDEN**Wachusett Greenways**

Grant Award \$50,000.00
Match \$20,000.00

This project will plan and engineer a key connection for the Mass Central Rail Trail near Wachusett Reservoir in West Boylston, enabling a connection for the trail between West Boylston and Sterling.

HOLLISTON

Town of Holliston

Grant Award \$50,000.00
Match \$13,000.00

This project will construct a two-mile section of the 24-mile regional Upper Charles Rail Trail. The Trail is designed as a multi-use, regional rail trail connecting the towns of Hopkinton, Milford, Holliston, Sherborn and Ashland.

KINGSTON

Town of Kingston Conservation Commission

Grant Award \$18,850.00
Match \$6,637.54

The project includes the design, construction and installation of a trail bridge over the upper shallow reaches of the Jones River and a 300-foot long boardwalk through a vegetated wetland area. These trail improvements are located in currently inaccessible portions of the Bay Circuit Trail.

LOWELL

City of Lowell

Grant Award \$50,000.00
Match \$200,000.00

This project will construct a pedestrian bridge over the Concord River, providing a critical connection between two major parts of the Concord River Greenway. This bridge will allow the Greenway to complete its route, ultimately connecting downtown Lowell with Chelmsford's Bruce Freeman Trail, the Bay Circuit Trail and the Riverwalk Extension on the Merrimack River.

MEDFORD

Medford High School & EAGLE EYE Institute

Grant Award \$8,000.00
Match \$12,045.64

The MHS/Project EAGLE initiative will educate and prepare MHS students to become stewards of the Lawrence Woods section of the Middlesex Fells State Reservation. Through half-day EAGLE club meetings and clean-up community services day, the program will help to make the Fells more accessible to the MHS community.

METHUEN

City of Methuen

Grant Award \$42,612.00
Match \$21,870.80

This project will upgrade approximately a half mile of gravel trail to a paved surface, beginning at the most publicly accessible location of the Methuen Rail Trail railroad bed, located at the former railroad depot. Landscape design and installation in front of the depot will create a visible and publicly accessible trailhead to welcome visitors and residents to the Methuen Rail Trail.

MONTEREY

Knox Trail Riders Association

Grant Award \$9,250.00

Match \$2,743.00

This project will maintain Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails at Beartown State Forest, including All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and off-road motorcycling recreational use. Also included is the purchase of various tools and equipment for maintenance purposes, as well as a trailer to store all club tools.

NEW BEDFORD

City of New Bedford

Grant Award \$49,975.00

Match \$406,582.50

This project will provide a connection for city residents and visitors to the New Bedford harbor by converting an existing Hurricane Barrier within the harbor into an accessible and scenic walkway. The barrier will be maintained as a flood protection structure shielding the area from hurricanes while also providing a safe and enjoyable recreational area for all users.

NORTH ANDOVER

Friends of the North Andover Trails

Grant Award \$2,156.00

Match \$540.00

This project aims to make the town's trail system more welcoming and increase trail visibility by placing large, attractive signs within ten newly erected kiosks that are located at town open space trailheads.

NORTHAMPTON

Cutchins Program for Children and Families

Grant Award \$16,720.00

Match \$14,417.00

The Meadows City Trail project will expand a trail system in the city-owned Meadows floodplain area, adding an additional two and a half miles of trail with a half mile that would be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. Additionally, the project will involve construction of trail entry signs, benches and a series of interpretive signs and provide for ongoing maintenance of existing trails and restoration efforts focused on removing invasive species.

NORTHAMPTON

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Grant Award \$158,684.00

Match \$39,671.00

The grant dollars will fund DCR Recreational Trail Program educational workshops and administration costs.

ORANGE

Town of Orange

Grant Award \$26,190.00

Match \$6,550.00

This project will construct a Downtown Riverfront Trail and provide safe and equitable access to the Millers River Blue Trail through a variety of supportive devices for the physically disabled, including a floating dock/adaptive boat launch, a hoist sling, and a shallow transfer area. The project will also construct a 2,200 linear foot urban trail along the Millers River.

OTIS

Knox Trail Sno-Riders

Grant Award \$30,078.00

Match \$8,704.00

This project will replace the club's existing sled-based groomers with updated, fuel-efficient models. This will enable club members to continue their grooming operations throughout the winter season in Otis and Tolland State Forests.

PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club

Grant Award \$14,596.00

Match \$3,649.00

This project will purchase a new drag for an existing club-owned groomer, which grooms over 50 miles of trails in October Mountain State Forest. The new drag will enhance the trail by creating a smoother and more even surface, allowing for a safer and more enjoyable ride, walk or ski in the winter months.

PITTSFIELD

Berkshire Snow Seekers Snowmobile Club

Grant Award \$13,500.00

Match \$4,937.40

This project will restore badly eroded sections of a critical six-mile east/west snowmobile trail corridor on the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Chalet Wildlife Management Area.

PITTSFIELD

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Grant Award \$43,960.00

Match \$54,354.80

DCR's Western Region OHV Trail Crew will provide 24 weeks of professional trail work on over 300 miles of motorized trails within the State Forests of the western part of the state, where four properties remain open to ATV and/or off-road motorcycle use and all are open for snowmobile use.

PLAINFIELD

Student Conservation Association (SCA) Massachusetts AmeriCorp

Grant Award \$5,200.00

Match \$1,299.98

This project will provide funds for the purchase of two portable generators to support the SCA crew on carpentry-based projects located across the state, such as completing trail projects in remote areas.

PRINCETON

Appalachian Mountain Club Worcester Chapter

Grant Award \$38,880.00

Match \$42,676.40

This project will reconstruct and stabilize a portion of the steep, severely eroded and heavily used Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation utilizing the labor of a combination of volunteer crews, professional trail crews and new pilot volunteer teen trail crew.

RUTLAND

Ware River Snowmobile Club

Grant Award \$3,200.00

Match \$1,000.00

This project will fund the purchase of a tow-behind brush cutter to assist the Ware River Snowmobile Club with trail maintenance efforts, focusing on snowmobile trails and the Mass Central Rail Trail in the Ware River area.

SANDISFIELD

Berkshire Natural Resources Council

Grant Award \$19,549.00

Match \$12,541.96

This project will improve an existing old wood road that supports snowmobile and pedestrian recreational use. In addition, the project will create a new spur trail off of the wood road to open up pedestrian access to a currently inaccessible portion of the Clam River Reserve.

SHELBURNE FALLS

Buckland Riders

Grant Award \$49,088.00

Match \$16,815.16

This project will fund the purchase of two mini-trucks and two six-foot wide grooming drags to assist in ongoing maintenance and repairs to the winter trails system at Dubuque State Forest and the surrounding area.

SPENCER

Town of Spencer, Parks and Recreation Commission

Grant Award \$49,943.00

Match \$13,170.10

This project will work to correct drainage problems on the Depot Rail Trail and to re-establish a firm, level and smooth surface along the length of the trail for accessibility.

STERLING

Town of Sterling

Grant Award \$12,536.00

Match \$10,920.00

This project will establish road access and parking as well as a half mile loop trail through Mudgett Orchard, a town-owned parcel that has been set aside for watershed protection and public access. This trail project will provide a key link between the Orchard parcel and new trail and other trail systems in Sterling, including DCR and Department of Watershed Protection land.

SUTTON

Town of Sutton

Grant Award \$22,354.00

Match \$11,946.40

This project will rehabilitate the Shaw Farm Trail System in accordance with current trail best management practices, including clearing, pruning, blazing, surface stabilization, hazard mitigation and directional signage. A parking lot will be established and an accurate trail map will be displayed in newly installed trailhead kiosks.

UPTON

Tri-State Trailriders

Grant Award \$8,313.00

Match \$8,229.00

This project will purchase an ATV, trailer and trail maintenance equipment to assist in the maintenance of the OHM Trail System at Hodges Village Dam in Upton. Working with the Army Corps of Engineers, the equipment will create and maintain trails on the property, including removal of flood debris, downed trees and brush as well as the installation of signage and assistance with off-road motorcycle event preparations.

WILLIAMSBURG

Town of Williamsburg

Grant Award \$48,000.00

Match \$72,000.00

This project includes construction drawings, grading/drainage work and trail resurfacing along the existing Leeds-to-Haydenville trail located between the Haydenville town line and South Main Street. A bike lane will be added from South Main Street to Route 9, connecting Williamsburg and Haydenville to Northampton and the regional, multi-use trail network.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner John P. Murray, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/>. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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